

INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION, UNITED STATES & MEXICO – CONSTRUCTION

Program Activities Summary

Summary Statement (dollars in thousands)

Activities	FY 2000 Actual	FY 2001 Estimate	FY 2002 Request	Increase or (Decrease)
Boundary Wide Construction	\$1,375	\$2,919	\$3,107	\$188
Facilities Renovation	1,375	424	725	301
Heavy Equipment Replacement	--	998	500	(498)
Land Mobile Radio Systems Replacement	--	499	750	251
Hydrologic Data Collection System Rehab.	--	499	750	251
Tijuana River Diversion	--	499	--	(499)
Construction Administration	--	--	382	382
Rio Grande Construction	3,840	2,679	2,954	275
Rio Grande American Canal Extension	2,090	200	250	50
Rio Grande Canalization	1,750	200	800	600
Rio Grande Flood Control System Rehab.	--	1,282	1,150	(132)
Safety of Dams Rehabilitation	--	997	754	(243)
Colorado River Construction	700	803	340	(463)
Colorado River Boundary & Capacity Preservation	700	803	340	(463)
Subtotal, Construction	5,915	6,401	6,401	--
Operations & Maintenance ^{/a}	--	16,499	19,253	2,754
Subtotal, Construction, O&M Appropriation	5,915	22,900	25,654	2,754
Add Unobligated Balances Applied	7,644	9,258	--	(9,258)
CONSTRUCTION, O&M TOTAL	\$13,559	\$32,158	\$25,654	(\$6,504)

/a Prior to FY 2001, funds for the Operations and Maintenance activity were included in the IBWC—Salaries and Expenses appropriation.

Explanation of 2002 Request

The FY 2002 request for the Construction activity (projects) is \$6,401,000, the same level as the FY 2001 appropriation. FY 2002 Construction activity funds have been redistributed among construction projects to accurately reflect current funding needs, including Construction

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Administration. The FY 2002 request also reflects the transfer in FY 2001 of the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) activity from the IBWC-Salaries and Expenses appropriation. The FY 2002 request for the O&M activity is \$19,253, an increase of \$2,754,000 over FY 2001 to fund wage and price increases (\$629,000), workers' compensation charges (\$71,000), and audit findings resolution (\$54,000); initial implementation of Public Law 106-457, the Tijuana River Valley (CA) Estuary and Beach Sewage Cleanup Act of 2000 (\$1,500,000); the Amistad Dam and Reservoir (TX) Silt Survey (\$100,000); the Nogales Wash (AZ) Planning Study (\$150,000); and enhanced boundary monuments maintenance (\$250,000).

Explanation of Projects

The FY 2002 request permits program support at levels consistent with overall foreign policy objectives. Following is the status of the major projects and activities in FY 2002:

CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY (\$6,401,000)
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Boundary-Wide Construction (\$3,107,000)

Facilities Renovation (\$725,000) – Continuing a program funded since FY 1992, new FY 2002 funding will be used to continue a multi-year program of facilities renovation to rehabilitate and modernize deteriorated U.S. Section facilities along the U.S.-Mexico border. FY 2002 scheduled work includes the continuation of structural, electrical, and plumbing upgrades at various field office sites; replacement of existing underground storage tanks with environmentally safe above ground fuel tanks; field office and project yards paving/resurfacing; and the modification of project facilities to comply with environmental and safety requirements.

Heavy Equipment Replacement (\$500,000) - FY 2002 funds will be used to continue a multi-year program, begun last year, to replace existing deteriorated and obsolete heavy construction equipment that currently incur excessive repair and maintenance costs. Heavy construction equipment such as bulldozers, scrapers, cranes, front-end loaders, etc., are critical during flood events and other emergency situations in which protection of lives and property is of utmost importance.

Land Mobile Radio (LMR) Systems Replacement (\$750,000) - FY 2002 funds will be used to continue a three-year upgrade project, begun last year, to replace the agency's current LMR system, which does not comply with the requirements set forth by the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration. The LMR systems consist of base station consoles, repeaters, mobile radios, and hand-held portable radios. The multi-year project includes radio system design and evaluation, procurement of equipment, removal of the existing LMR system, and installation of new, completely functional and compliant LMR systems at thirteen USIBWC field offices along the U.S.-Mexico border. FY 2002 work will include the procurement of radio equipment for six of the field offices. The purpose of the work is to assure that wireless/radio communications are available for day-to-day coordination of field activities or during emergency flood situations.

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Hydrologic Data Collection System Rehabilitation (\$750,000) - FY 2002 funds will be used for the second year of a three-year project to renovate gauging stations and replace the existing hydrological data collection and transmission system (telemetry), which is antiquated and unreliable. The work scheduled in FY 2002 will include the rehabilitation of the remaining Rio Grande telemetry and gauging stations as well as the telemetry for the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers. The telemetry system is used to remotely monitor river flows and obtain data that is critical to the safe monitoring of flood events and the operation of flood control dams and diversion and containment structures. Additionally, the 1944 Water Treaty requires the USIBWC to provide flood control and water accounting data and determine international ownership of waters in the international reaches of the Rio Grande, Colorado and Tijuana Rivers.

Construction Administration (\$382,000) - This program, new in FY 2002, will fund the executive direction and oversight required for the continuing USIBWC Construction program. Management personnel assigned to this sub-activity would include a Principal Engineer, a Division Engineer, and an Administrative Services Clerk. The Principal Engineer, transferred from the Engineering activity in the IBWC-Salaries & Expenses appropriation (\$140,000), is responsible for overseeing, managing, coordinating, and identifying future needs of the USIBWC construction program. The Division Engineer assists in the day-to-day operations and oversight of the construction projects. The Administrative Services Clerk support enhances the engineers' abilities to carry out their duties. Funding for these two positions, currently distributed to the various projects within the Construction appropriation, will be consolidated into this activity.

Rio Grande Construction (\$2,954,000)

Rio Grande American Canal Extension (\$250,000) - Originally funded in FY 1991, requested FY 2002 funding will be used to continue a multi-year project for the design and construction of an extension to the American Canal at El Paso, TX. The FY 2002 new budget authority will be combined with prior year unobligated balances to perform subsidence monitoring and complete the design for the reconstruction of the American Canal (from the American Diversion Dam to the International Diversion Dam, approximately 1.5 miles). The remaining balance of funds necessary to complete this project will be requested in future years.

Rio Grande Canalization (\$800,000) - Originally funded in FY 1993, new FY 2002 funds will be used to complete environmental compliance studies and provide erosion protection to three irrigation structures. These irrigation structures are an essential conduit for the irrigation of farmland; their failure would have severe economic impacts to the area. This project is authorized by the Act of August 29, 1935 (49 Stat. 961) to facilitate water deliveries to Mexico under the 1906 Convention and to protect against Rio Grande floods, and was recorded in 22 USC 277d-29, Rio Grande Canalization Project. Scouring has exposed foundations of bridges, siphons, and diversion dams in portions of the Rio Grande channel, jeopardizing their structural integrity. The U.S. Section will construct necessary features to control the scouring process throughout the channel. Future work will include channel rehabilitation, erosion control riprap placement, construction of silt retention dams, rehabilitation of structure foundations, levee reconstruction and raising, other mitigation works, and real estate acquisition.

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Rio Grande Flood Control System Rehabilitation (\$1,150,000) - FY 2002 funds will be used to continue hydraulic and geo-physical studies, and initiate environmental and cultural resources investigations along the Rio Grande from El Paso, Texas, to the Gulf of Mexico. In FY 2002, the USIBWC plans to complete geo-physical studies for the lower Rio Grande Valley that began last year. USIBWC also performed hydraulic studies of the Rio Grande flood control system at Laredo and Presidio, Texas in FY 2001, and will continue with the Rio Grande system hydraulic studies at Del Rio and Eagle Pass, Texas. USIBWC will also begin environmental and cultural resources investigations along the Rio Grande between El Paso and Fort Quitman, Texas. Project pre-design studies are needed to evaluate the Rio Grande flood control system against the design flood, and to identify and incorporate necessary improvements into the system design. The anticipated work includes reconstruction of 380 miles of the levee system, rehabilitation and preservation of the river channel and flood plain, and production of aerial maps.

Safety of Dams Rehabilitation (\$754,000) - New FY 2002 funds will be used to continue crucial rehabilitation work at Amistad and Falcon International Dams on the Rio Grande, as recommended by the Joint Technical Advisors of the Federal Safety of Dams Program. This multi-year effort, begun last year, also includes major rehabilitation work at the International Dam and American Dam, at El Paso, Texas. The work includes sinkhole treatment, procurement and replacement of riprap, floodgate rehabilitation, and dam break analysis at Falcon Dam.

Colorado River Construction (\$340,000)

Colorado River Boundary and Capacity Preservation (\$340,000) – Originally funded in FY 1998, FY 2002 funds for this multi-year project will be used to continue studies concerning the conveyance capacity of the international segment of the Colorado River. Due to excessive flood sedimentation in 1983 and 1993, the capacity of the Colorado River channel has been greatly reduced. Minute 291 (the underlying international agreement) requires that carrying capacity improvements be made to the international segment of the Colorado River. The issue of water salinity will also be addressed as a result of deliveries of allocated water to Mexico. Additional studies will be conducted to assure that all standards are met, in compliance with the 1944 Water Treaty and Minute 242. The project includes surveying, mapping, vegetation management, channel alignment excavation and protection, and revision of the international flow standards. The project also includes work to restore and maintain the international boundary and lands in the U.S. and Mexico. Extensive realty efforts will be necessary to accomplish this task. Due to the environmental sensitivity of this area, work must be conducted in a manner that will significantly mitigate any potential environmental impacts.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE ACTIVITY (\$19,253,000)

Operations and Maintenance Activity - In FY 2002, Operations and Maintenance (O&M) activities will continue to be performed at two international wastewater treatment plants, two international dams and power plants, five diversion dams on the Rio Grande, and numerous smaller in-river structures, such as weirs and grade-control structures. Additionally, the USIBWC is responsible for the O&M of six flood-control projects with over 550 miles of levee

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and related structures. These flood control projects protect approximately 3 million residents and 1.5 million acres of adjoining farmland in the U.S. and Mexico. Program growth in this activity is required to continue to operate and maintain aging structures along the entire 1,952-mile border and to accomplish necessary studies and special maintenance requirements, as well as to implement new legislative requirements at the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant (SBIWTP). In addition to the \$754,000 increase for workers' compensation charges, wage and price, and audit findings resolution the following initiatives are proposed for FY 2002:

Tijuana River Valley Estuary and Beach Sewage Cleanup Act of 2000 (\$1,500,000) - Public Law 106-457 authorizes and directs the U.S. Section to take appropriate actions to address the treatment of sewage emanating from the Tijuana River area that flows untreated from Mexico into the United States, causing adverse public health and environmental impacts. Funding will be used for initial environmental assessments and to begin the negotiation and approval process for a new Minute or the amendment of Minute 283 which, under Section 1005, authorizes the U.S. Section to provide for secondary treatment of effluent of the SBIWTP in Mexico and of additional sewage emanating from the City of Tijuana.

Amistad Dam Silt Survey (\$100,000) - New FY 2002 funds will be used to perform a silt survey at Amistad reservoir. USIBWC policy has been to perform silt surveys of the Amistad and Falcon International reservoirs every ten years. Over a period of time, the capacities of reservoirs become smaller as silt accumulates, which is true for both of the IBWC reservoirs, Amistad and Falcon. This gradual change in capacities of Amistad and Falcon has a direct relationship on the amounts of water "owned" by each country. The U.S. and Mexican Sections alternate the silt surveys at the Amistad and Falcon reservoirs. In 1992, the U.S. Section performed the silt survey of Falcon reservoir and the Mexican Section performed the silt survey of Amistad reservoir; therefore, by this agreement, the U.S. Section is responsible for the 2002 silt survey of Amistad.

Nogales Wash Flood Control Study (\$150,000) - The U. S. Section will conduct a study to determine potential international solutions to the ongoing flooding problems at the Nogales Wash (stream). Construction of flood control works at the Nogales Wash is authorized by P.L. 79-490, approved July 5, 1946. This intermittent stream runs through a densely populated area in Nogales, Arizona, and Nogales, Sonora, Mexico. Past flooding has caused significant loss of life and property in both cities and current flood control works are inadequate. In 1988, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) formulated a plan to address flood control needs in the U.S. This new study will be a cooperative effort with the Corps and will provide a complete set of alternatives that are international in scope. Mexico will participate in the cost of the study through provision of in-kind services.

Boundary Monuments Maintenance (\$250,000) - The U.S. Section will use \$250,000 of new FY 2002 funding for the restoration/reconstruction of existing markers, monuments, and international crossings, and for the construction of new markers, monuments, and international crossings for Boundary Demarcation. The U.S. Section is responsible for the demarcation of international crossings (bridges and ports of entry) and the construction or reconstruction of boundary markers and monuments along the entire U.S.-Mexico international boundary.

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Purpose of Program

The purpose of the IBWC-Construction program is to investigate, design, construct, operate, and maintain joint construction projects independent of or with Mexico that will address boundary demarcation, border sanitation, trans-boundary groundwater, and flood control problems. This appropriation ensures that the rights and obligations of treaties and agreements between the United States and Mexico are met through construction and O&M activities using funds appropriated to the USIBWC. In addition, the Commission will:

- r implement joint water quality programs for the observation of the biological, mineral, chemical, and toxic quality of international river waters;
- r promote successful resolution of a broad range of trans-boundary environmental issues;
- r ensure compliance with National Pollution Discharge System (NPDES) permits for the Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant (NIWTP) located in Nogales, Arizona, and the South Bay International Waste Water Treatment Plant (SBIWTP) located in San Ysidro, California;
- r design, construct and maintain water conveyance structures, and operation and maintenance facilities for flood control, hydrologic, groundwater, sanitation (water quality), and boundary demarcation and preservation projects;
- r investigate and report on the most feasible measures for solving border sanitation problems along the U.S.-Mexico border; and
- r conduct various planning (pre-design) and environmental studies for flood control, hydrologic, groundwater, border sanitation (water quality), and boundary demarcation and preservation programs.

Benefits

Benefits of this appropriation include:

- r implementing boundary preservation, flood control, and sanitation projects consistent with treaty obligations between the Governments of the United States and Mexico, and various Acts of Congress;
- r promoting successful resolution of a broad range of trans-boundary environmental issues;
- r maintaining the natural boundary between the United States and Mexico;
- r preventing potentially destructive flooding in towns along the boundary; and
- r preserving the water quality for human and other use on both sides of the boundary.